

PRIZE
GROUP

SEPT. OCT. 1953 No. 26 10¢

BLACK MAGIC

TRUE AMAZING
ACCOUNTS OF THE
STRANGEST STORIES
EVER TOLD!

magazine

THIS TERRIBLE
WIND -- IT
CAME WHEN THE
WITCH DOCTOR OF
THESE ISLANDERS
CALLED TO IT!

IT'S THE DEMON
WIND! WE
LAUGHED AT IT--
AND NOW IT'LL
TEAR US ALL
TO PIECES--

It ruled the
Island but it
was not a man--
this terrible
thing that lived
in the air!



WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM



DOCTORS
IN ACTUAL CLINICAL
TESTS* PROVE
SUCCESS OF

AMAZING DOUBLE-ACTION CONCEALS AS IT MEDICATES PIMPLES

SKIN
TREATMENT THAT
ACNE, BLACKHEADS AND
other externally-caused
SKIN BLEMISHES!

Actual clinical tests conducted by leading doctors have proven that an amazing, new-type medication helps clear up skin blemishes while it covers and hides embarrassing pimples! In the many cases tested by the doctors, there were a mixture of men, women and children, White and Negro. Some with recent skin eruptions and others with skin troubles of many years. The results were:

100% SUCCESSFUL
IN CLINICAL TESTS

*45% were COMPLETELY CLEARED!
38% were DECIDEDLY IMPROVED!
17% were IMPROVED!

NOW THE SAME TYPE OF MEDICATION
USED IN THESE CLINICAL TESTS
IS AVAILABLE TO YOU!

GUARANTEED
TO HELP YOUR
SKIN LOOK
LOVELIER AND
MORE ATTRACTIVE
IN A FEW
MINUTES
OR DOUBLE
YOUR MONEY BACK!

Leading
SKIN
SPECIALISTS
RECOMMEND THIS
DOUBLE TREATMENT

Physicians prescribe two ways to help control skin eruptions: First—clean the skin and clear the pores of clogging dirt. Second—Inhibit the excessive oiliness of the skin.

The clinically-proven ingredients in the scientifically-tested formula of Scope Products have been compounded to help overcome these external causes of pimples and blemishes! Actually starves pimples because it helps remove the oils that skin specialists often associate with acne!

**SKIN DOCTORS STATE THAT
TO NEGLECT YOUR SKIN MAY
PROLONG YOUR COMPLEXION
TROUBLE AND MAKE IT
MORE DIFFICULT TO CLEAR UP!**

DELAY MAY BE HARMFUL—
Send for Scope Medicated Skin treatment
with its special "cover-up" action!
MAIL COUPON AT ONCE!

SCOPE PRODUCTS CO., Dept. YR7 1 Orchard St., New York 2, N.Y.

TEEN-AGERS and GROWN-UPS REGAIN NEW POPULARITY

People of all ages have discovered a new-found joy with a clearer lovelier looking skin! If you've been hoping to improve your complexion . . . to increase your popularity with the opposite sex

. . . to climb to success in the business world—we recommend this amazing treatment. Just a few minutes each day can yield more gratifying results than you ever dreamed possible!

HIDES PIMPLES ON LIGHT, AVERAGE & DARK COMPLEXIONS!

To help people of all complexions quickly conceal their externally caused blemishes—Scope Medicated Skin Formulas come in special tones. No matter how many other treatments or old-fashioned preparations have disappointed you—here is a

product that guarantees to improve your appearance or double your money back! Scope Medicated Skin Formula is GREASELESS, FAST-DRYING and STAINLESS! Make-up can easily be applied over it.

SURE, QUICK RESULTS—WORKS LIKE MAGIC!

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK!

If you are not delighted in every way by the improved condition and general appearance of your skin in just 10 days, return the unused portion and we will promptly send you double the purchase price! You have nothing to lose but worrying over your bad complexion. **WE TAKE ALL THE RISK!**

SEND NO MONEY
You fill out the coupon and by return mail we will immediately ship you the Scope Treatment in a plain package. Try Scope yourself! If you are not entirely satisfied, return the unused portion for refund of double your purchase price.

Mail FREE TRIAL Coupon TODAY!

SCOPE PRODUCTS CO., Dept. YR7
1 Orchard St., New York 2, N.Y. ACT
NOW!
 Please send me on a 10-Day Trial the Scope
Medicated Skin Treatment. I will pay postman
\$1.98 plus postage on delivery. If not entirely
satisfied, I may return the unused portion for
double my purchase price back.

Check Light Medium Dark Complexion

Name _____

Address _____

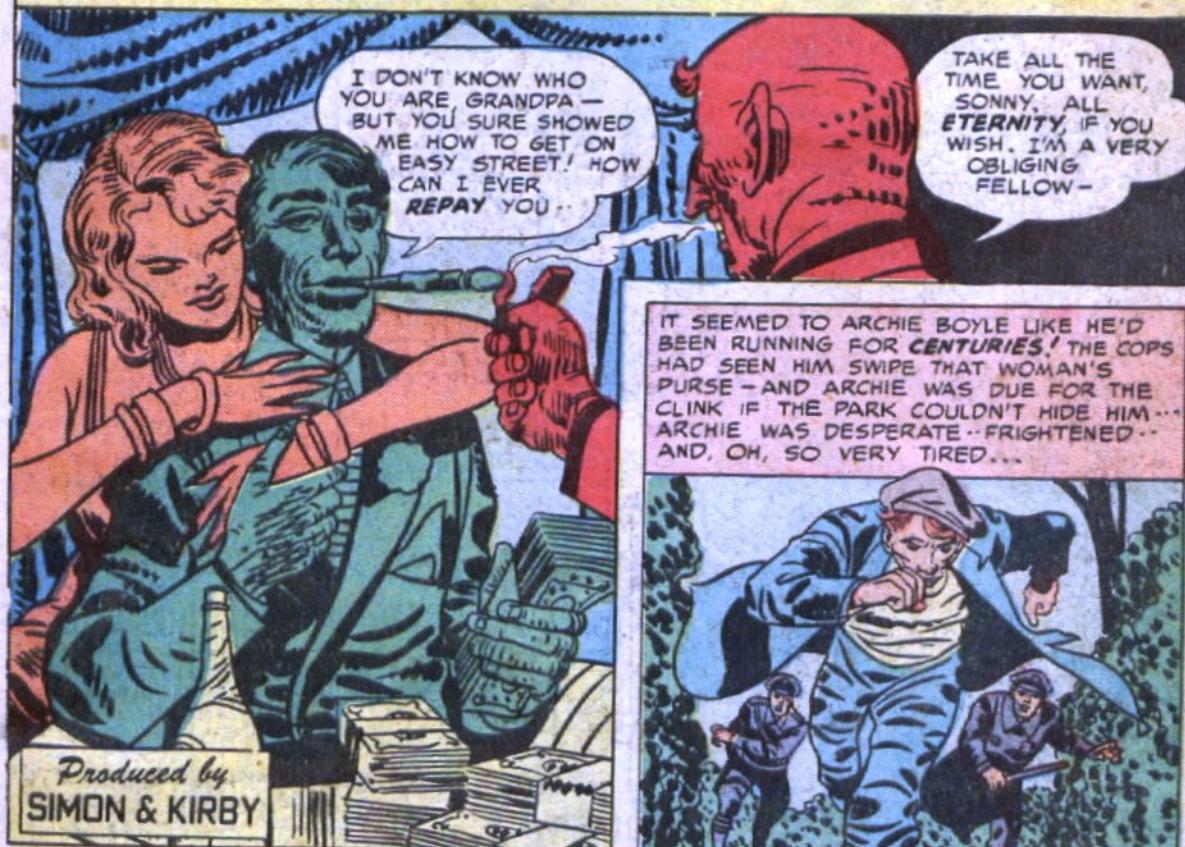
City & Zone _____ State _____

SAVE MONEY. Enclose \$2. now and we pay
postage. Some double your money-back either
way you order.

Enclose payment with Canadian or Foreign orders.

Even a fool has the right to seek Paradise. But will he like it when he finds it? You see--it will still be a--

Fool's Paradise!



IT SEEMED TO ARCHIE BOYLE LIKE HE'D BEEN RUNNING FOR CENTURIES! THE COPS HAD SEEN HIM SWIPE THAT WOMAN'S PURSE -- AND ARCHIE WAS DUE FOR THE CLINK IF THE PARK COULDN'T HIDE HIM... ARCHIE WAS DESPERATE -- FRIGHTENED -- AND, OH, SO VERY TIRED...



ARCHIE WASN'T EXACTLY THE COURAGEOUS TYPE. HE WAITED FULLY TEN MINUTES AFTER THE POLICE HAD GONE BEFORE HE STEPPED OUT OF THE PROTECTION OF HIS LEAFY SANCTUARY!

WELL, THEY'RE GONE! IT'S GOOD YOU FROZE, POP! IF YOU'D YELPED I'D HAVE USED THIS KNIFE!

OH, I NEVER DOUBTED THAT YOU WOULD! I KNOW YOU WELL, ARCHIE... ALMOST INTIMATELY, I MIGHT SAY!

WELL, I DON'T KNOW YOU! SO, HOW COME YOU KNOW MY NAME? WHAT IS THIS? HAVE YOU BEEN TRAILING ME?

WE MUST HURRY BEFORE THOSE POLICE-MEN RETURN. NO ONE WILL NOTICE A YOUNG MAN TAKING HIS OLD MAN FOR AN EVENING STROLL. WE'LL GO TO MY HOME! YOU'LL BE SAFE THERE FOR THE PRESENT!



THAT'S IT! FOR A CHANGE, YOU'RE DOING THE WISE THING! YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU CAME ALONG... AND, INTERESTED IN WHAT I INTEND TO PROPOSE!

I DON'T GET THE DRIFT, GRAMPS... BUT A HIDEOUT'S A HIDEOUT! WHERE IS YOUR PLACE?



IT WAS A SWELL PLACE... IN A SWELL NEIGHBORHOOD! ARCHIE BOYLE LIKED IT! HE WOULD SPARE A LOT OF TIME IN SURROUNDINGS LIKE THESE... HE'D EVEN LISTEN TO WHAT THE STRANGE, LITTLE GAFFER HAD TO SAY...

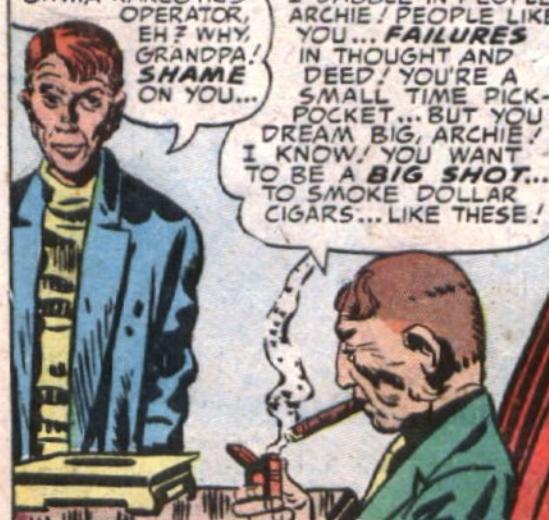
WOW! WHAT A LAYOUT! YOU MUST BE IN A GREAT RACKET, GRAMPS!

THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT, ARCHIE! I SELL TICKETS TO EASY-STREET!



OH... A NARCOTICS OPERATOR, EH? WHY, GRANDPA! SHAME ON YOU...

I DABBLE IN PEOPLE, ARCHIE! PEOPLE LIKE YOU... FAILURES IN THOUGHT AND DEED! YOU'RE A SMALL TIME PICK-POCKET... BUT YOU DREAM BIG, ARCHIE! I KNOW! YOU WANT TO BE A BIG SHOT... TO SMOKE DOLLAR CIGARS... LIKE THESE!



MONEY, WOMEN, POWER... THAT'S YOUR VISION OF PARADISE, ISN'T IT? I KNOW WHERE EASY STREET IS, ARCHIE! WANT TO GO THERE?

SURE! I'LL BUY A TICKET... HOW DO I PAY FOR IT... IN BLOOD?



NO, IT'S A SORT OF TIME PAYMENT, ARCHIE! NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT... NOT IN PARADISE! YOU'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT TIME THERE! BUT, WE'LL SETTLE, NEVER FEAR!

SAY... THAT'S CHARLIE YELKO'S NAME. YOU'RE WRITING ON THAT CARD... WHY HE'S THE KINGPIN OF EVERY RACKET IN THIS CITY!

IT TAKES INFLUENCE TO GET INTO YOUR KIND OF PARADISE, ARCHIE! THE RIGHT PEOPLE WILL OPEN THE DOORS FOR YOU! GIVE THIS TO CHARLIE! SEE HIM... AT PRECISELY 2:30 TOMORROW AFTERNOON!

OKAY... I WON'T ASK ANY QUESTIONS... EXCEPT ONE... WHO IN THE DEVIL ARE YOU?

MY BOY... MY BOY... I'M SURE YOUR MAMA TRIED TO TELL YOU AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER... BUT MY NAME MEANT NOTHING TO YOU THEN... WHY SHOULD IT MATTER NOW?

ARCHIE WAS CERTAIN THE OLD GUY WAS OFF HIS ROCKER! BUT, IN ARCHIE'S HAND WAS THE CARD... AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FABULOUS CHARLIE YELKO! WAS IT A TICKET TO PARADISE? ARCHIE THOUGHT IT WORTHWHILE TO FIND OUT... AT 2:30 THE NEXT DAY, ARCHIE WAS ON HAND WHEN CHARLIE YELKO EMERGED FROM HIS OFFICE BUILDING.

THERE'S YELKO AND HIS BODY-GUARDS NOW! HE SURE WEARS EXPENSIVE CLOTHES...

ARCHIE'S SHARP, LITTLE EYES WEREN'T TOO TAKEN WITH CHARLIE YELKO'S FINERY TO MISS THE MEN SEATED IN A PARKED CAR NEARBY! THE MEN HAD GUNS... AND THE GUNS WERE TRAINED ON CHARLIE YELKO! ARCHIE SHOUTED HIS WARNING!

MISTER YELKO! LOOK OUT!



IT WAS OVER AS SURELY AS IT HAD STARTED! NO CAR... NO BULLETS... AND STRANGELY ENOUGH, NO INJURIES FOR THOSE INVOLVED... THANKS TO ARCHIE'S **TIMELY ACTION...**

WOW! THAT WAS A NARROW SQUEAK! YOU OKAY, MISTER YELKO?

LUCKY, YOU WERE ON HAND, FELLA! THESE BODYGUARDS OF MINE ARE LOSING THEIR EYESIGHT!



HMM... THE HANDWRITING... COULD BE "PISTOL" DEAN'S... OR FINN GALESKI'S... OR... WELL... NO MATTER... YOU'RE RECOMMENDED FOR A JOB, ARCHIE! AND YOU'VE GOT ONE!

THANKS, MISTER YELKO! I FEEL I CAN GO PLACES... WORKING FOR YOU!



ARCHIE'S CROWNING JOY ARRIVED ONE DAY ON THE ARM OF CHARLIE YELKO! HER NAME WAS **PEARL**... AND THE FACT THAT SHE BELONGED TO YELKO DIDN'T QUELL ARCHIE'S DESIRE FOR HER... OR PEARL'S SILENT RESPONSE!

IT'S A MUST, CHARLIE! I LIKE TO GET RESULTS FOR YOU...

YOU SURE DO, ARCHIE! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HIM, PEARL? ARCHIE'S MY **BEST** MAN! YOU CAN'T HELP LIKING HIM!



THE LUNK HEADS! THAT WAS **FAST** THINKING, MY FRIEND! CHARLIE YELKO OWES HIS LIFE TO YOU...

ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU IN RETURN?

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I CAME HERE TO SEE YOU, MR. YELKO! THIS CARD WILL EXPLAIN.



AND ARCHIE **DID**! IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED HE DID WELL IN CHARLIE YELKO'S ORGANIZATION. FROM A CHEAP HOODLUM HE ROSE RAPIDLY TO MORE IMPORTANT UNDERWORLD TASKS. SUCCESS HAD COME INTO ARCHIE'S LIFE! HE WAS IMPORTANT... HE WAS IN PARADISE!

I TOLD YOU MONKEYS HOW TO COLLECT THAT DOUGH! NOW **DON'T** COME BACK WITHOUT IT! IT WON'T LOOK GOOD IN MY REPORT TO CHARLIE YELKO!

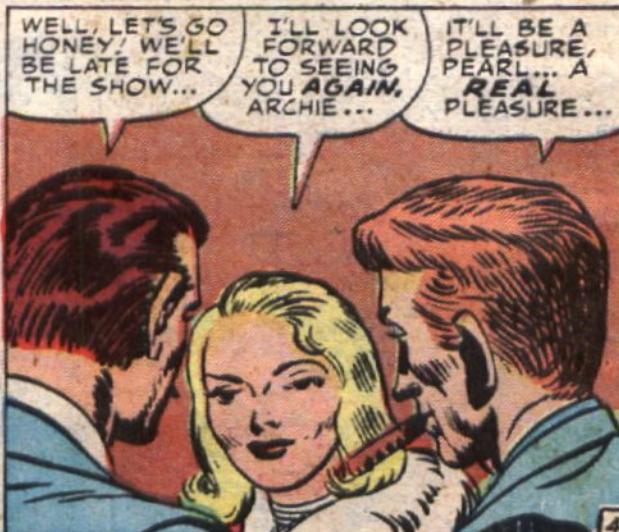
THAT'S IT! WHIP 'EM INTO LINE, ARCHIE!



WELL, LET'S GO HONEY! WE'LL BE LATE FOR THE SHOW...

I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN, ARCHIE...

IT'LL BE A PLEASURE, PEARL... A **REAL** PLEASURE...



ARCHIE AND PEARL SAW EACH OTHER FREQUENTLY AFTER THAT. ONLY, CHARLIE YELKO NEVER KNEW ABOUT IT. BUT, THE PROSPECT OF HIS FINDING OUT DIDN'T DISTURB ARCHIE. HE WAS MAKING PLANS TO RID HIS PARADISE OF THAT THREATENING ELEMENT.

THIS IS THE LIFE, BABY!
THIS IS ARCHIE BOYLE'S IDEA OF LIVING --

CHARLIE YELKO WON'T LIKE YOUR IDEA,
ARCHIE. HE'S GOING TO FIND OUT SOONER OR LATER...



I'M SCARED, ARCHIE. SOMEONE'S GOING TO GET WIND OF OUR-- FRIENDSHIP--ONE OF CHARLIE'S BOYS--THEY'RE EVERYWHERE! MAYBE--WE OUGHT TO STOP-- SEEING EACH OTHER...

FORGET IT. AFTER TONIGHT, CHARLIE'S BOYS WILL BE MY BOYS. I'M TAKING OVER THE RACKETS--AND YOU! CHARLIE YELKO'S ABDICATING--THE HARD WAY. I'VE GOT IT ALL FIGURED OUT.



ARCHIE'S PARADISE WAS FILLED WITH SNAKES, AND CHARLIE YELKO WAS THE CLEVEREST AND THE QUICKEST AND THE DEADLIEST. HE'D SEEN.. THEN ACTED! THAT NIGHT, WHEN ARCHIE CALLED ON PEARL--HE FOUND HER--DEAD...

PEARL--MURDERED!
YELKO KNEW ABOUT US!

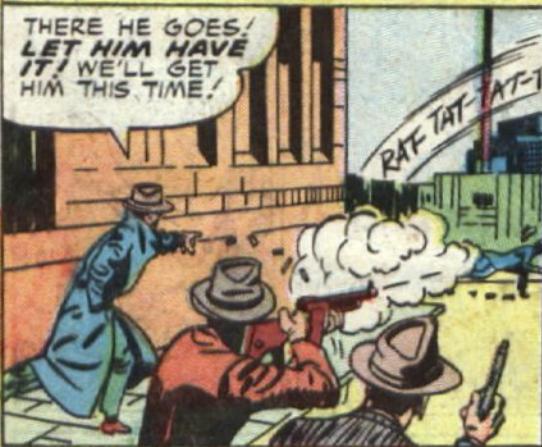


THEY'RE WAITING FOR ME--I GOTTA DODGE 'EM! GOTTA HIDE--GOTTA RUN!



SO ARCHIE RAN AND HE RAN... HEADING OUT OF PARADISE... WITH CHARLIE YELKO'S ROD-HAPPY KILLERS CLOSE ON HIS HEELS! THE CITY WAS LARGE... BUT, YELKO'S SHADOW WAS EVERYWHERE... SEEING INTO EVERY CRACK THAT ARCHIE SOUGHT FOR REFUGE!

THERE HE GOES!
LET HIM HAVE IT! WE'LL GET
HIM THIS TIME!



STOP THIEF!
HE SNATCHED
MY PURSE!

HEY, YOU!
HALT, OR
I'LL SHOOT!



BUT, HIS PANIC-STRICKEN MIND HAD ONLY ONE THOUGHT... RUN-RUN-HIDE-HIDE! HE FELT TIRED... LIKE HE'D BEEN DOING THIS FOR A LONG TIME... LIKE HE'D BE RUNNING LIKE THIS FOREVER! WHEN WOULD IT END? WHEN WOULD HE FIND PEACE?

I'LL HAVE TO
TAKE MY CHANCES
IN THESE SHRUBS!



AN ANIMAL CLINGS TO LIFE... EVEN A HUNTED ANIMAL LIKE ARCHIE! TIME AND AGAIN HE ELUDDED DEATH BY THE TIGHTEST OF SQUEAKS! ARCHIE'S GRANDEUR HAD VANISHED, AND HIS CLOTHES WERE WORN AND DIRTY! HE HAD NO MONEY... AND HE RETURNED TO HIS OLD WAYS OF GETTING IT!



THERE WAS THE PARK... AND ARCHIE WHEELED SHARPLY TOWARD A SHADED PATH WHICH LED TO POSSIBLE AVENUES OF CONCEALMENT! SOMEHOW, IT SEEMED TO ARCHIE THAT ALL THIS HAD HAPPENED THIS WAY, BEFORE! HE SEEMED TO KNOW THIS PATH... AND THE LITTLE MAN SITTING CALMLY ON A PARK BENCH AT THE END OF IT!



THE DEVIL SMILED AS HE FELT ARCHIE'S KNIFE AGAINST THE BACK OF HIS NECK! SOON IT WOULD BEGIN AGAIN! THE ETERNAL RAT RACE TO PARADISE! ARCHIE'S KIND ALWAYS CAME HERE SEEKING PARADISE... AND SATAN NEVER FAILED TO OBLIGE! HE GRANTED IT TO THEM... OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN!



THE FACTS! ON AUGUST 21, 1923, ARCHIE BOYLE, A LITTLE KNOWN CRIMINAL, WAS SHOT AND KILLED WHILE EVADING ARREST ON A PICKPOCKET CHARGE!

**MEDICAL
DOCTOR says:**



**It's FUN
to REDUCE
with KELPIDINE
CHEWING GUM!**

**NO DRUGS
NO STARVING
NO MASSAGE
NO EXERCISE
NO STEAMING
NO LAXATIVES**

FREE!

A full 12 day package will be given FREE With a 24 day supply for \$2. That's actually a 36 day supply for only \$2.

**KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM
GOOD FOR MEN TOO**

"FAT MEN & WOMEN
who are normally overweight, will be amazed to discover this safe, pleasant, scientific way to lose ugly fat and get a slimmer, more attractive figure."

CHEW IMPROVED KELPIDINE FORMULA CHEWING GUM REDUCE

UP TO 5 lbs. A WEEK
With Dr. PHILLIPS REDUCING PLAN

It's really FUN to REDUCE with KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM! This amazing, pleasant-tasting chewing gum way to reduce helps you lose ugly fat and take off weight without hardships. It's the scientific, safe way to lose up to 5 lbs. a week. Best of all, with Dr. Phillips KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM REDUCING PLAN, you eat 3 tasty, well-balanced meals every day, and only when you are tempted to take a fattening snack, you chew KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM instead, which contains only 3 calories in each delicious piece. KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM is wonderful because it pleases your sweet-tooth, yet helps to keep you on Dr. Phillips Reducing Plan, which helps you lose ugly fat and reduce weight.

LOSE 10 - 20 - 30 LBS.

Men and women everywhere are losing as much weight as they wish since they discovered this amazing, scientific way to reduce. You can take off 10-20-30 lbs. and still eat 3 tasty, well-balanced meals every day. It's really FUN to REDUCE with the Dr. Phillips KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM REDUCING PLAN. Why even think of any other way to reduce when you can lose pounds and inches and have fun doing it. Don't just wish for a slimmer more attractive figure! You can easily reduce to a beautiful, slim, glamorous figure, which will give you poise, win new friends, romance and popularity. Don't deny yourself what you've been wishing for . . . send for your 25 day supply of Improved Formula KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM and Dr. Phillips Reducing Plan this very minute, 100% guaranteed!

You must lose weight . . . up to 5 lbs. a week . . . or YOU DON'T PAY ONE PENNY. Your friends . . . your mirror . . . and your scale must tell you that you have lost ugly fat and excess weight, or your money back. What can you lose but unwanted pounds and inches, so send the coupon right away.

**12 Day
Supply
Only**

\$1

Money-Back Guarantee! 10 Day Free Trial!!

Mail the coupon now! Test the amazing Dr. Phillips KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM REDUCING PLAN for 10 days at our expense. If after 10 days your friends, your mirror and your scale do not tell you that you have lost weight and look slimmer you pay nothing.

SENT ON APPROVAL — MAIL COUPON NOW!

AMERICAN HEALTHAIDS COMPANY Dept. CH-855

318 Market Street, Newark, N.J.

Just mail us your name and address, and \$1. cash, check or money-order. You will receive a 12 day supply of KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM (Improved Formula), and Dr. Phillips Reducing Plan postage prepaid.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Send me Special 24 day supply and FREE 12 day package for \$2.00
I understand that if I am not delighted with KELPIDINE CHEWING GUM and Dr. Phillips Reducing Plan, I can return in 10 days for full purchase price refund.

LOSE WEIGHT OR NO CHARGE

MAIL THIS 10 DAY FREE TRIAL COUPON NOW!

That small, persistent Voice that whispers to you in the night, conjuring up pictures of evil, forbidden delights..Don't you know who owns that voice? it's..

The BEAST IN YOU!

EDWARD GRANGER STOOD IN THE PRECINCT STATION WITH HIS MILD EYES STARING AT SOME HORROR THAT ONLY HE COULD SEE ... AND THE DESK SERGEANT LAUGHED!

NOW, LOOK, MR. GRANGER... YOU SEEM TO BE A NICE, HARMLESS SORT! BUT, YOU'RE A NUT! YOU NEVER KILLED ANYONE! DO ME A FAVOR! GO HOME!

NO! SERGEANT, YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO ME! I'M A MURDERER! I KILLED THAT GIRL, THE ONE THEY FOUND LAST NIGHT IN THE PARK!



HOW? THAT GIRL'S THROAT WAS CRUSHED! BUT I'VE EXPLAINED WHOEVER KILLED HER WAS AS STRONG AS AN OX! YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU COULD CRUSH A WALNUT!

OTHER ME! THE BEAST! SERGEANT, EACH OF US IS TWO PEOPLE... GOOD AND BAD! MOST OF THE TIME, THE GOOD IN US HOLDS THE BAD IN CHECK!



I'VE TRIED! BUT THE BEAST IN ME IS TOO POWERFUL! I'VE FOUGHT IT, BUT LAST NIGHT... IT WON! IT GOT FREE! IT KILLED!

SURE! HALF OF YOU WENT OUT AND COMMITTED A MURDER AND THE OTHER HALF STAYED HOME AND WAITED FOR THE BIG BAD WOLF TO COME BACK!

NO! WHEN THE BEAST TAKES OVER, IT USES MY BODY. I WAS THERE, IMPRISONED IN MY OWN BRAIN! I HAD TO LOOK ON WHILE IT KILLED!

SERGEANT, IN THE NAME OF MERCY, JUST ANOTHER LISTEN TO ME! I HAVE! AND YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER CRANK! THE SOONER I GET RID OF YOU THE LESS I'LL HAVE TO PUT INTO MY REPORT ABOUT YOU, SAM, TOSS THIS NUT OUT!



EDWARD GRANGER SHRIEKED HIS PROTEST AS A GRINNING OFFICER ESCORTED HIM TO THE DOOR. THIS MAN A KILLER? IT WAS RIDICULOUS! SO NO ONE CAN BLAME THE POLICE SERGEANT FOR WHAT HAPPENED LATER THAT NIGHT...





WHAT HAVE YOU GOT, OFFICER? HE SAYS HE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU, INSPECTOR! HE WAS HIDING IN THE BUSHES! BUT WHOEVER HE IS, THIS LITTLE GUY CAN'T BE OUR KILLER!



BUT I AM! INSPECTOR, I'M EDWARD GRANGER! I READ ABOUT THE GUARD IN THE PARK! THAT'S WHY I CAME! SOMEONE'S GOT TO BELIEVE ME...

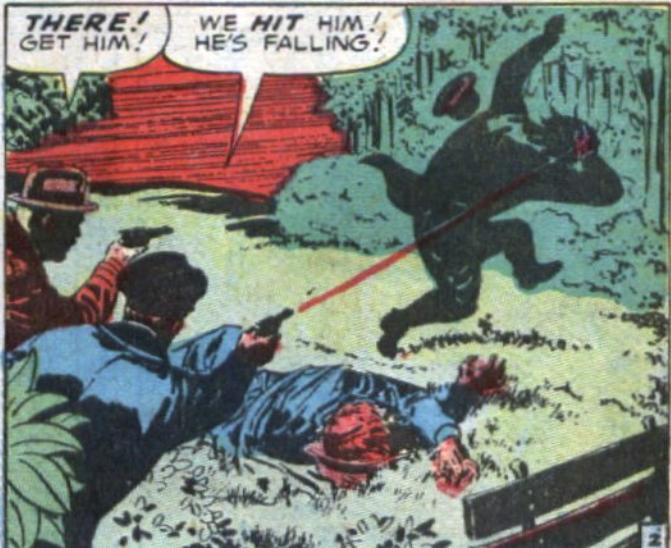
OH, YES... YOU'RE ONE OF THE CRANKS WHO'VE BEEN TRYING TO TAKE CREDIT FOR THESE KILLINGS! YOU RAVED ABOUT BEING TWO PEOPLE!



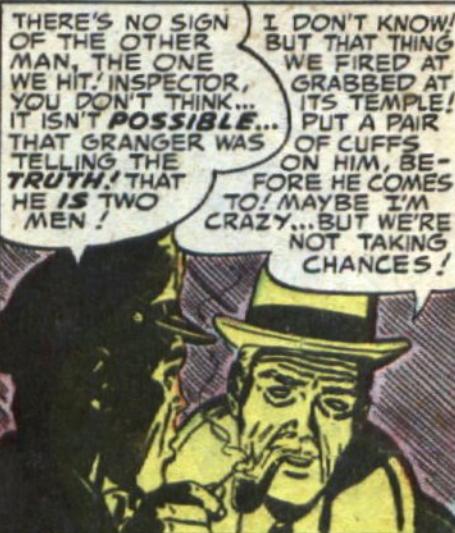
IT WASN'T RAVING, INSPECTOR, I'M YOUR MAN! THE BEAST WANTED TO COME HERE TONIGHT! IT LIKES THE PARK! T-THE DARK-



EDWARD GRANGER WAS A MAN IN TORMENT! THERE WAS NO DOUBT OF THAT! BUT HE COULD NOT BE THE BEAST! HE TURNED AWAY, HE VANISHED AMID THE TREES... AND FOR AWHILE ALL WAS SILENT! FOR... AWHILE!



SOME OF THE STORY OF EDWARD GRANGER WILL REMAIN FOREVER A MYSTERY! BUT THIS IS CERTAIN! TWO SANE MEN KNOW THAT THEY FIRED AT A HUGE HULKING SHAPE! THAT IT FELL! AND THAT WHEN THEY REACHED THE SPOT...



ON THE FACE OF IT, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE! BUT THE KILLER HAD VANISHED! ONLY EDWARD GRANGER REMAINED! AND THERE ARE MEN WHO UNDERSTAND SUCH THINGS!

WELL, DOCTOR, YOU TALKED TO HIM! AM I AS BIG A FOOL AS I'M BEGINNING TO THINK I AM? OR IS GRANGER OUR BOY?

FRANKLY, I... I'D RATHER NOT SAY, INSPECTOR!



WE KNOW THAT SPLIT PERSONALITY CASES EXIST! WE KNOW THAT THE EVIL IN ANY MAN CAN TAKE OVER CONTROL OF THE MIND! BUT IT CAN'T CHANGE THE BODY! YOU SAID YOU SAW A HULK...

WE DID! AND IT WASN'T GRANGER! WE HIT IT! BUT WHEN WE GOT TO THE SPOT WHERE IT FELL... IT WAS GRANGER!

DOCTOR, I KNOW IT'S FANTASTIC! BUT, GRANGER AND THAT OTHER... THEY'RE ONE AND THE SAME! THEY MUST BE!

WITH YOUR PERMISSION, INSPECTOR, I'D LIKE TO CALL IN SOME COLLEAGUES JUST TO MAKE SURE THAT WE AREN'T BOTH LOSING OUR MINDS!

THERE WERE THREE OF THEM! MEN WHOSE NAMES ARE BYWORDS IN THE FIELD OF PSYCHONEUROTIC RESEARCH! THEY PROBED... AND THEY LEARNED NOTHING!

I'M POSITIVE! GENTLEMEN, THE MAN IS A SCHIZOPHRENIC, BEYOND DOUBT! BUT THIS TALK OF BEASTS... IT IS PART OF THE NEUROSES! A FANTASY!



YES! YES, THAT'S IT! THE BEAST KNOWS! HE WAS LAUGHING AT YOU! HE KNOWS HE'S SAFE! BECAUSE HE KNOWS YOU DON'T BELIEVE HE EXISTS! BUT HE DOES! HE'LL KILL AGAIN! UNLESS WE STOP HIM!



AND YOU KNOW A WAY TO STOP THE BEAST, MISTER GRANGER? HOW?

BY MAKING HIM HELPLESS! IF I WERE TO BE LOCKED AWAY... EVEN IF HE WERE TO EMERGE AGAIN HE'D BE HARMLESS. HE COULDN'T KILL! YOU'VE GOT TO LOCK ME UP!



YOU MEAN IN A CELL? GRANGER, I'VE STUCK MY NECK OUT A MILE ON THIS CASE ALREADY! THE PLACE FOR YOU IS A HOSPITAL, NOT A CELL!

NO! DOCTOR... THE BEAST.. HE'S FIGHTING ME EVEN NOW! HE KNOWS I'M RIGHT! MAKE HIM LISTEN! I... I DON'T WANT TO KILL! BUT I CAN'T FIGHT HIM ALONE! I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH!



MR. GRANGER! COMPOSE YOURSELF! THERE IS NO BEAST EXCEPT IN YOUR OWN MIND! WE'LL TALK AGAIN LATER, AFTER YOU'VE RESTED!

NO! NOW! YOU HAVE HEARTS... NOW! I BEG YOU! LOCK ME UP! IF YOU DON'T... THE BLOOD HE SPILLS WILL BE ON YOUR HANDS!

THESE WERE MEN OF SCIENCE! THEY DID NOT BELIEVE! BUT WHAT WAS THE HARM IN HUMORING THIS WRETCHED SOUL?

VERY WELL, THEN! INSPECTOR, YOU HAVE SOLITARY CONFINEMENT CELLS HERE? WE SHALL NEED ONE! AND A STRAIT-JACKET AS WELL...



EDWARD GRANGER'S EYES GLOWED AS HE WAS LED INTO A CELL. AS HE SPOKE, IT WAS ALMOST AS IF SOMEONE, SOME THING WERE TRYING TO STRANGLE THE WORDS IN HIS THROAT!

REMEMBER! WHATEVER YOU HEAR... DON'T OPEN THE DOOR! GO... QUICKLY!



SHAKEN DESPITE THEMSELVES, THE MEN CLUSTERED OUTSIDE THE STEEL DOOR. FOR AN HOUR, TWO, THE SILENCE WAS ALMOST PHYSICAL. THEN...

LISTEN! THAT VOICE! SOMEONE IS SPEAKING IN GRANGER'S CELL! BUT... IT ISN'T GRANGER!

FOOL! DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD BEAT ME? WHAT GOOD WILL ALL THIS DO? THIS THING THEY PUT ON US! DID YOU REALLY THINK IT COULD HOLD ME?



NO! DON'T! THE PAIN! WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENING? T-TWO VOICES... AND SOMETHING TEARING!



CAN'T YOU SEE THAT I DON'T
NEED YOU ANY MORE! I
DON'T NEED YOUR PUNY
CARCASS! I'M FREE!
FREE AT LAST!
YOU TOLD THEM
I WANTED TO
KILL YOU
WHERE
RIGHT!

YOU...
YOU'RE
INSANE!
HORRIBLE...
AND INSANE...

PERHAPS... BUT IT'S
GOOD TO BE ABLE TO
STAND OFF AND LOOK
AT THE MISERABLE
LITTLE THING WHICH
WAS ONCE PART OF
ME! THE PART I'VE
HATED
SO LONG! GET BACK!
MORE KILLING
WON'T HELP
YOU! **YOU'RE
TRAPPED!**
YOU...

INSPECTOR!
SOMETHING
IS IN THERE
WITH GRANGER!
OPEN THE
DOOR!

IT TOOK
ONLY
SECONDS
TO OPEN
THAT
GRIM,
FACELESS
PANEL
OF STEEL!
BUT IN
THAT
SECOND
THE
SILENCE
RETURNED!
FIVE MEN
STARED
...AT
DEATH!

IT'S AS IF HE'D BEEN PICKED UP... AND
SMASHED DOWN ON THE FLOOR!
ALMOST EVERY BONE IN HIS BODY
IS BROKEN! **BUT... HE'S ALONE!**
THERE **HAD** TO BE SOMEONE ELSE
IN HERE! THERE **HAD** TO!

THERE
WAS,
INSPECTOR!

THE STRAIT-JACKET!
RIPPED TO SHREDS!
IT WOULD TAKE THE
STRENGTH OF A
GORILLA TO
TEAR THOSE
STRAPS FREE!

YES! THERE
WAS SOMEONE
IN HERE WITH
GRANGER! **THE
BEAST!** THE
THING WHICH KILLED
GRANGER'S BRAIN...

IT GOT FREE... AND KILLED
HIM! BUT THE BEAST WAS
STILL A BEAST WITH-
OUT INTELLIGENCE! IT
DIDN'T REALIZE THAT
IN DESTROYING
GRANGER... IT WAS
DESTROYING IT-
SELF! IT DIED...
WHEN HE DID!

THEN...
GRANGER
WAS TWO
MEN! I KNOW
IT'S TRUE!
BUT EVEN NOW
... I... I DON'T
BELIEVE IT! I
CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

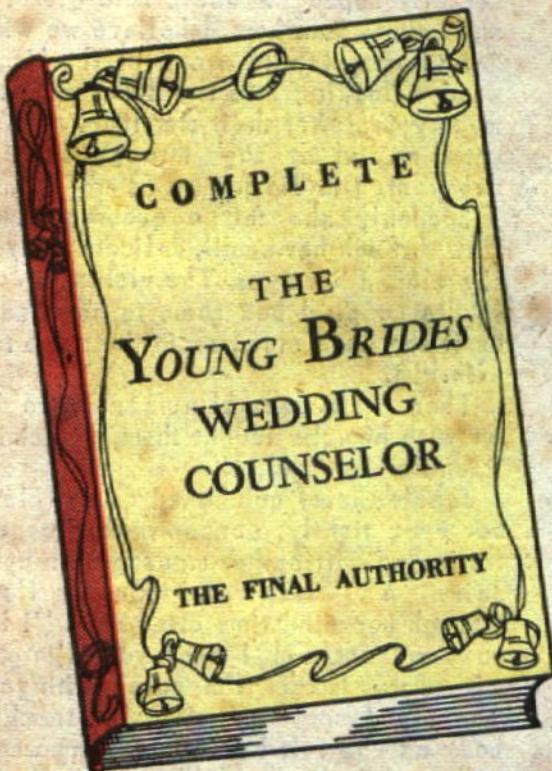


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THE WISH

Mrs. Jaime Howard stood at the kitchen window with tears in her eyes and deep, grieving sorrow in her heart. She stared endlessly through the window to the corner where Jaime, her beloved husband, got off the bus each evening when he came home from work.

But now, Jaime was in the hospital. "A stroke," the doctor had said, "we can only hope--he's in rather bad condition." Jaime had been in the hospital two days now and had not regained consciousness. They had been too close, too dear to each other for her not to know the feeling that drained her heart of life itself.

She tried to reach him through mental telepathy as she had done so many times in the past. Their perfectly coordinated lives and deep devotion for each other had brought them the realization that their minds were in perfect accord and they found that several times a day they thought of the same thing at the same time. They had experimented and had soon developed their minds so that they could send mental messages to each other. Even when Jaime went to his business conventions once a year in Chicago, the mental waves carried almost six hundred miles. That was many years ago and as their love grew stronger and they gained more and more understanding of each other, they found that their mental powers increased and eventually each felt that he was constantly with the other.

One night Jaime had said, as he lay with his head in Jennie's lap, her fingers rubbing away the fatigue from his forehead and temples, "Jennie, I hope when either of us die, the other will die at the same time. I can't imagine living without you!"



Jennie smiled and answered, "I've often thought of that, Jaime, darling. I've secretly hoped we would both die at the same time. Somehow, I believe we will."

And now Jennie stood at the kitchen window looking into the darkness, forty-three years after their marriage, trying to get a mental message through to the man she wanted to die for.

Suddenly she felt a queer sensation flow through her small, delicate body and she closed her eyes. The vision of Jaime on his hospital bed came to her clearly, as if she were standing in the same room with him.

There were several nurses and a doctor with him. He fought them, screaming, "Jenniel My Jennie!"

Jennie's heart quickened as she closed her eyes tightly, concentrating: concentrating on getting her message through to Jaime. The desperate thoughts flowed through her mind time after time. "I hear you, my darling! I hear you! I'm going with you, Jaime! I'm going with you!" The blood surged through her trembling body as she felt herself growing weaker and weaker, finally falling to her knees, her knuckles white, grasping the edge of the sink.

This time his voice was clearer and she knew they had made their last contact as she heard him call her name again and again. A sharp, acute pain squeezed at her heart. Still conscious, she saw Jaime suddenly stop fighting. He lay back peacefully in his bed an expression of deep sorrow replacing the one of pain and agony. His eyes closed as the pain in Jennie's heart increased, but suddenly there was no pain and there was no life as Jennie lay dead on the kitchen floor.

In the small hospital not far from the little cottage where Jennie lay, Jaime gave up the fight and lay silently. Great tears trailed slowly down his checks as he mumbled, "Darling, darling Jennie, you didn't wait for me!"

In your horoscope there is an ominous warning, cloaked in a riddle you must solve-- or die! Quickly! What do you think of this message--

THE STING OF SCORPIO!



"PERHAPS, I, **TESSIE MARINE**, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR IT ALL. I REALLY DON'T KNOW.. I'M STILL TOO FRIGHTENED AND CONFUSED TO THINK CLEARLY. IT JUST HAPPENED. BUT WHO CAN SAY WHETHER THE STRANGE FATE THAT BEFELL JOAN BROWN WAS MERE COINCIDENCE OR THE HAND OF DESTINY!"

HELLO, TESS! DID YOU ARRANGE THE APPOINTMENT? I'M SO EXCITED! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED MY FUTURE FORETOLD BY A **REAL ASTROLOGER**.

BIG DEAL! LOOK, JOAN, I ONLY DID THIS FOR YOU! COME ON! WE'RE GOING TO SEE HIM RIGHT NOW. THE GUY IS THE REAL MCCOY! HIS NAME IS ANGOR CHARL, CLASSY HUH?



HELLO! MAY WE SEE **MR. CHARL**? MY FRIEND AND I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM!

I AM ANGOR CHARL! WON'T YOU COME IN, LADIES! I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU! WHERE'S YOUR TURBAN AND BEARD?

SAY, YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE ONE OF THEM STAR GAZERS TO ME, HONEY!



AS SOON AS I DON MY ROBE, WE MAY BEGIN! WHICH ONE OF YOU LADIES DESIRES HER READING FIRST?

I DO, MR. CHARL! PERHAPS MY FUTURE IS WRITTEN IN YOUR CHARTS!

LEAVE ME OUT, HONEY! I WAS BORN UNDER THE SIGN OF TAURUS, JUST CAME ALONG FOR THE RIDE! SAY, THAT'S A CLASSY KIMONO YOU HAVE THERE, CHARLEY!





HE WASN'T FOOLING, TESSIE! I COULD SENSE IT! HE LOOKED AT ME... LIKE A DOCTOR... AT A PATIENT WHO IS... GOING TO DIE...

HOW CAN YOU TAKE SUCH A CRACKPOT SERIOUSLY! HUH! **STING OF SCORPIO!** THINGS ARE BAD ENOUGH WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT BUG BITES! SCORPIO... THAT'S AN INSECT, ISN'T IT?

"ME AND MY BIG MOUTH! THE **BUG** ROUTINE DID IT! I TALKED MYSELF BLUE IN THE FACE THAT NIGHT, BUT JOAN WAS HOOKED! IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, EVERYTHING THAT CRAWLED, FLEW OR WRIGGLED BECAME A POTENTIAL ASSASSIN!"



"THAT NIGHT I WAS AWAKENED BY A PERSISTENT AND VIOLENT MOTION THAT ALMOST THREW ME TO THE FLOOR! AS I TURNED TO INVESTIGATE, JOAN BROWN SUDDENLY SAT UP AND SCREAMED..."



"I'D MANAGED TO CALM JOAN DOWN BY THE TIME WE GOT TO THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE! IT WAS A **DISTURBING** CALM... ONE THAT COULD SUDDENLY BLOW UP IN YOUR FACE..."



"JOAN, POOR GIRL, HAD BECOME AN HYSTERICAL NEUROTIC! IT WAS HER AGAINST THE INSECT WORLD AND THE BUGS HAD HER OUTNUMBERED! THIS WASN'T THE END! THE LAST BATTLE WAS FOUGHT IN A TAXI CAB THE FOLLOWING MORNING!"



THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO TELL, DOCTOR! IT'S TOO LATE! I'M A **MARKE**D WOMAN! I CAN'T ESCAPE THE STING OF SCORPIO!

HMM... YOUR PHOBIA FOR INSECTS SEEMS TO BE BASED ON A **FALSE** PREMISE, MISS BROWN... **SCORPIONS ARE NOT INSECTS!** EQUALLY FALSE IS YOUR BELIEF IN ASTROLOGY...

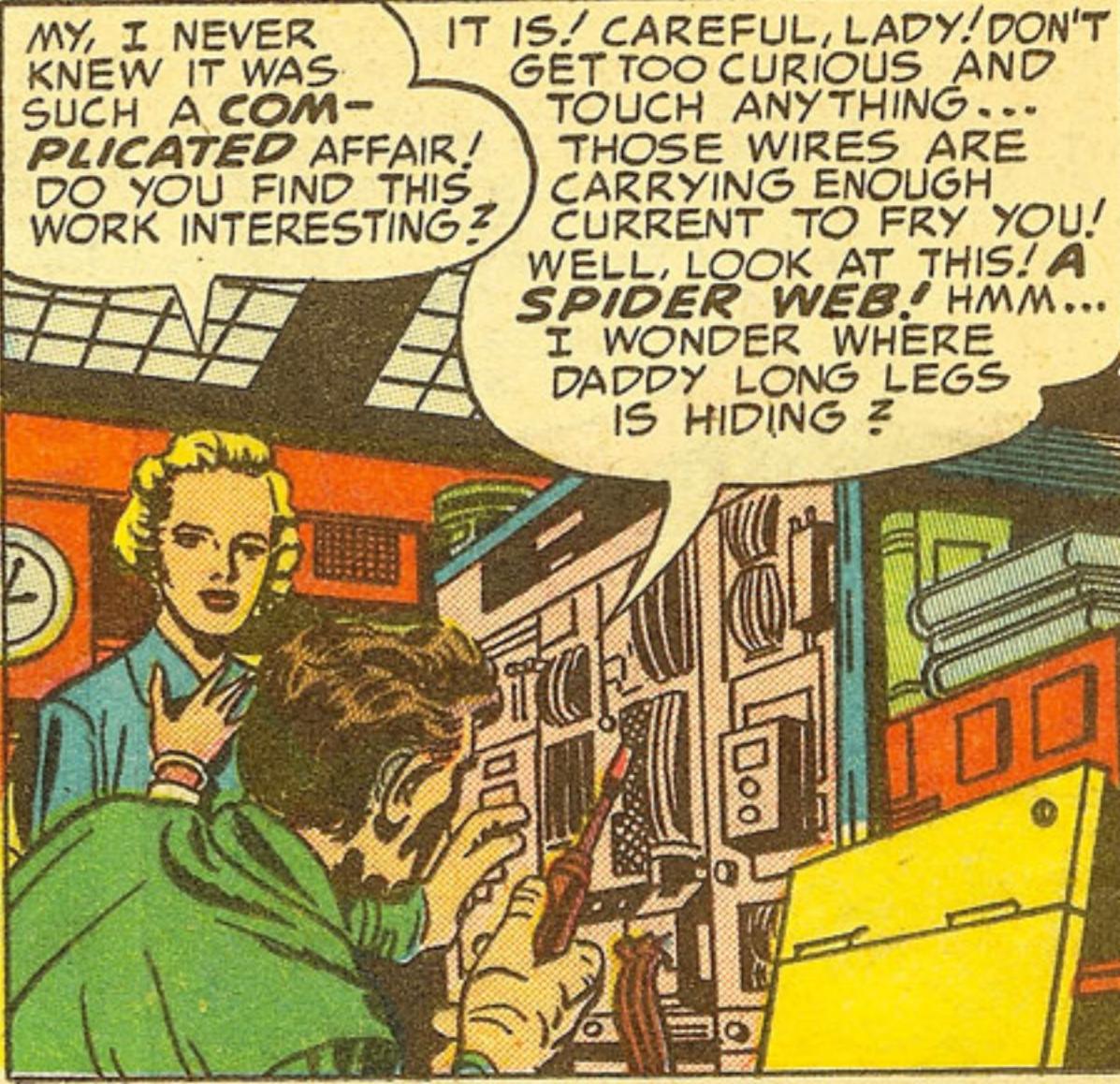
YOUR FEARS ARE BASELESS, YOUNG LADY! THIS ANGOR CHARL IS A **CHARLATAN**! A FAKE WHO OPERATES BEHIND A CURTAIN OF FALSE MYSTICISM... **HIS WEAPONS ARE YOUR OWN SUPERSTITIOUS BELIEFS**! HIS SCIENCE IS MUMMERY! IT'S NO MORE CAPABLE OF DIVINING THE FUTURE THAN I AM OF CONJURING UP A DEMON!"



"THE DOCTOR'S FRANK ANALYSIS SEEMED TO DO THE TRICK! LIKE SOMEONE JUST AWAKENED FROM A BAD DREAM, JOAN'S FEATURES RELAXED AND HER VOICE SLOWLY LOST ITS FRIGHTENED, FALTERING TONE ...



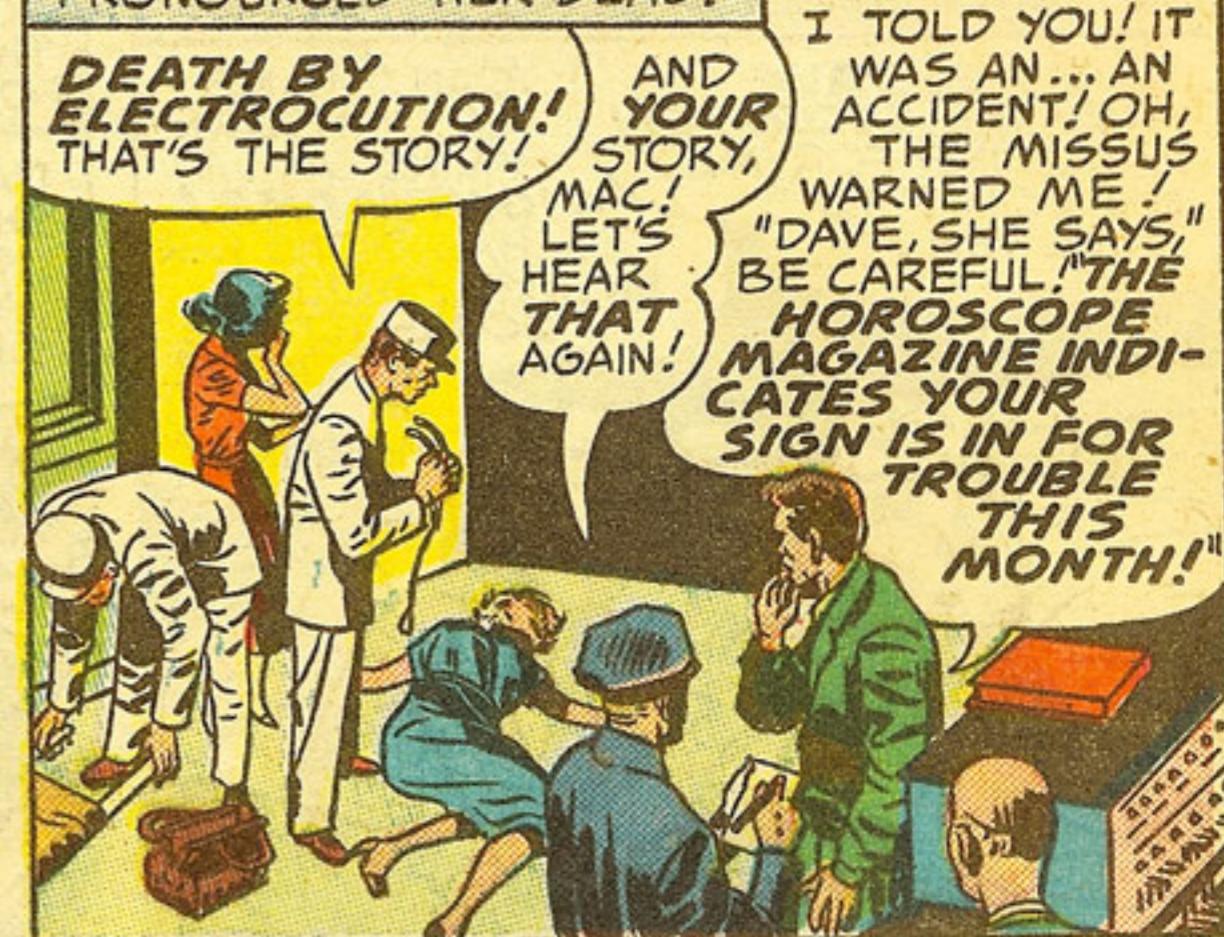
MY, I NEVER KNEW IT WAS SUCH A **COMPLICATED** AFFAIR! DO YOU FIND THIS WORK INTERESTING?



"THAT DID IT! THE REACTION WAS AUTOMATIC! EMOTIONALLY UPSET PEOPLE LIKE JOAN DON'T EASILY FORGET! THE RESULT WAS TRAGIC!"



"IT WAS TOO LATE TO SAVE JOAN! THE END WAS **TERRIBLE** AND QUICK! HER LIFE OF DOUBT AND FEAR WAS OVER! THE DOCTOR WHO ARRIVED WITH THE AMBULANCE, LATER, PRONOUNCED HER DEAD!"



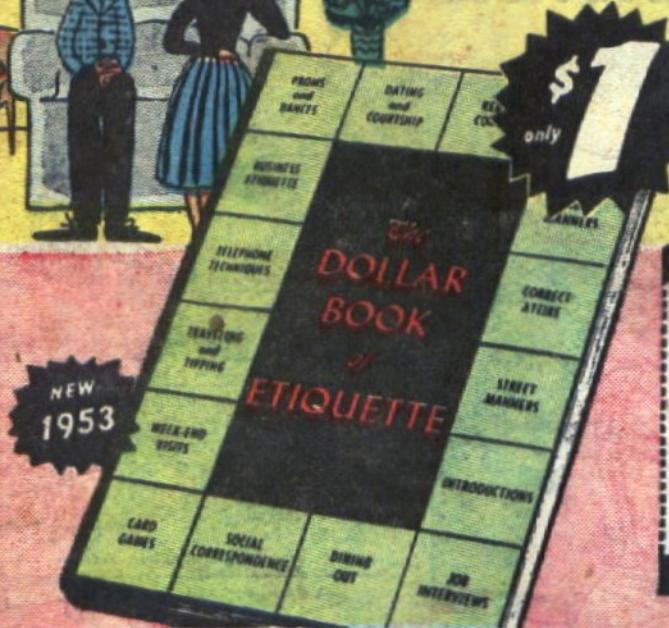
"TO THIS DAY, I'M STILL **NOT** SOLD ON THE PREDICTIONS OF THE ANCIENT MYSTICS, BUT, POOR JOAN'S CASE HAS LEFT THAT ONE SEED OF WONDER INSIDE ME... ARE OUR DESTINIES WRITTEN IN THE STARS? PERHAPS, LIKE JOAN, THE CURIOUS FIND OUT THE **HARD** WAY!"

The END

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THE STRANGE ANTICS OF THE MYSTIC MIRROR

A TRUE ACCOUNT

LOOK! THE MIRROR LEAPED INTO THE AIR AS SOON AS I REACHED TO PICK IT UP FROM THE TABLE!

IT'S UNCANNY — IT MUST BE HAUNTED!



THE DATE WAS FEBRUARY 20, 1936, AND THE PLACE, A HOSPITAL WARD IN A MIDWESTERN CITY. **RICHARD MARKSON** WAS ONE OF FIVE PATIENTS — NO DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS... NO DIFFERENT, THAT IS, UNTIL HE REACHED FOR THE SMALL PIECE OF SILVERED GLASS BESIDE HIM...

I'LL GET IT FOR YOU, MR. MARKSON... DOCTOR DOESN'T WANT YOU TO STRAIN YOURSELF!



WHY, WHAT IS IT, MR. MARKSON... IS ANYTHING WRONG...

LOOK! CAN'T YOU SEE IT? WHAT IS IN THE MIRROR! NURSE...



NO ONE IN THAT WARD SPOKE — NO ONE LAUGHED, FOR IT WAS EVIDENT FROM THE LOOK OF HORROR IN THE MAN'S EYES, THAT HE WAS NOT JESTING... FINALLY, MARKSON LAID THE MIRROR ON THE ENAMELED TABLE BESIDE HIM AND SPOKE IN A LOW MONOTONE...

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PICK UP THAT MIRROR!



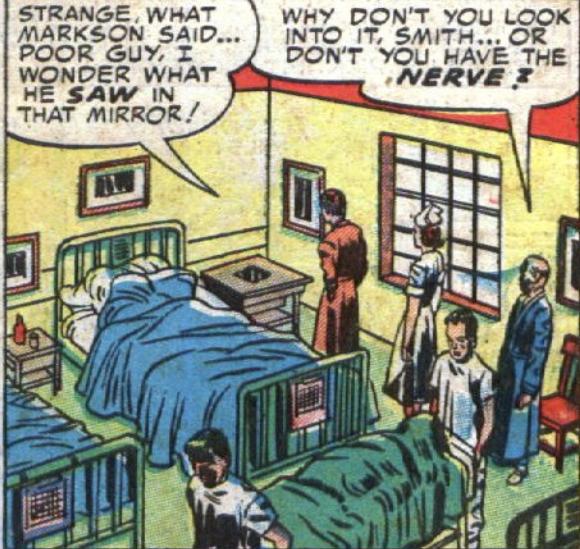
THE WORDS WERE SENSELESS, BUT MARKSON NEVER DID EXPLAIN THEM FURTHER... IN FIVE MINUTES, HE WAS DEAD!

WHAT DOES IT MATTER **WHAT** HE SAID BEFORE HE DIED... MOST LIKELY HIS MIND WASN'T FUNCTIONING AT THE TIME... HAVE THE ORDERLIES REMOVE THE BODY. NURSE...

YES, DOCTOR!

STRANGE, WHAT MARKSON SAID... POOR GUY, I WONDER WHAT HE **SAW** IN THAT MIRROR!

WHY DON'T YOU LOOK INTO IT, SMITH... OR DON'T YOU HAVE THE **NERVE**?



WHAT HARM CAN THERE BE IN A LITTLE PIECE OF GLASS? SURE, I'LL LOOK INTO IT! I'LL...

WELL, GO AHEAD, MR. SMITH! WHAT'S HOLDING YOU BACK!

NOTHING'S HOLDING ME, NURSE... BUT... THE MIRROR! I CAN'T BUDGE IT!

IF YOU'RE JOKING, MR. SMITH, I THINK THIS LITTLE GAME HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH... PLEASE PICK IT UP!

I CAN'T! YOU TRY IT!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND! IT... IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT WERE GLUED TO THE TABLE!



THE DOCTOR WAS CALLED IN AND HE ATTEMPTED TO REMOVE THE MIRROR, WITHOUT SUCCESS! INTERNS AND PATIENTS FROM OTHER WARDS, WITH A VARIETY OF TOOLS, ATTEMPTED TO LIFT THE STUBBORN GLASS! THEY ALSO FAILED!

THEY TRIED ABSOLUTELY NO EARTHLY REASON WHY THIS MIRROR SHOULD CONTINUE TO STICK TO THE ENAMEL... IT'S NO USE... THE MIRROR IS CURSED!



THE TALE OF MARKSON'S PREDICTION, AND ITS STRANGE FULFILLMENT, SPREAD THROUGH THE CITY! NEWSPAPER TELETYPE FLASHED THE STORY TO PAPERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY! THERE WAS NO EXPLANATION...

I AM **NOT CONCERNED** WITH EXPLANATIONS... ALL I WANT IS TO GET THAT CURSED THING OFF THE TABLE... A HAUNTED MIRROR DOESN'T BELONG IN A HOSPITAL...

THE PUBLICITY IS BAD FOR US!



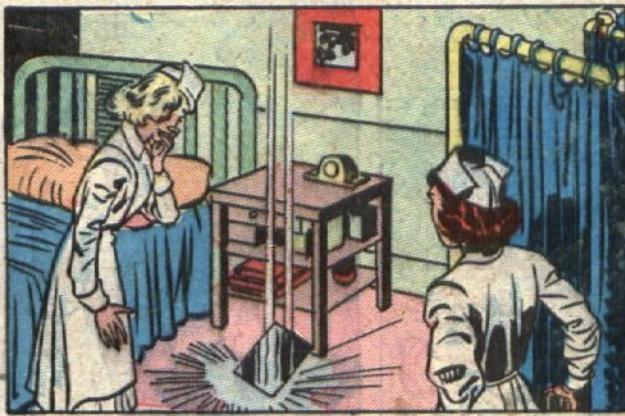
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS LATER, TWO NURSES DECIDED TO MAKE ONE MORE ATTEMPT. ONE ATTACKED THE MIRROR FRANTICALLY WITH AN ICE PICK... IT DIDN'T GIVE...

I GIVE UP... NOTHING WILL MOVE IT!

I HAVE A DEADLY WEAPON... MY FINGER-NAILS... LET ME AT IT...



AND HERE'S THE MOST ASTONISHING PART OF THIS ACCOUNT... SUDDENLY, WITHOUT ASSISTANCE, THE STRANGE GLASS JUST LIFT ITSELF INTO THE AIR AND THEN DROPPED TO THE FLOOR... MUCH TO THE AMAZEMENT OF THE ONLOOKERS!



THERE WAS NOTHING ON THE BACK OF THE MIRROR THAT MIGHT FORM AN ADHESION! WATER WAS SPILLED ON THE TABLE TO FORM A SUCTION! BUT NOW, THE MIRROR WOULD NOT STICK! NOTHING THEY TRIED COULD MAKE IT STICK...

IT LOOKS LIKE THE SPELL IS BROKEN... WELL, WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE MIRROR NOW?

I KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT. LET ME HAVE IT...



OH, DEAR... I'VE RUINED MY NAILS... I'M AFRAID YOUR MIRROR IS HERE TO STAY!

LOOK... IT'S MOVING...



IT... FELL WITHOUT BREAKING... IT'S... UNCANNY!

WELL DON'T STAND THERE... LET'S EXAMINE IT...



NURSE... YOU'VE BROKEN IT... YOU'VE BROKEN THE MIRROR...

I HAVE... AND GOOD RIDDANCE!



THUS ENDED THE STRANGE ANTICS OF THE MYSTIC MIRROR! NO EXPLANATION HAS EVER BEEN FOUND, AND THE STAFF OF THE HOSPITAL PREFER TO LET THE MATTER REST. THE PESTY GLASS, BURIED IN A PILE OF RUBBISH, MIGHT WELL HAVE CARRIED A FITTING EPIPHANY: 'GOOD RIDDANCE!' The END



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THE VOICE

I sat on a log by the fire thinking about it for a long time. When we started the hunting trip there were four of us. The first one to disappear was Red.

Red was a lanky guy with a lot of deep red hair. He said that the mysterious VOICE in the DARK was meant for him and he told us how he had run over a young girl one night on the highway and had not stopped.

We searched the thickly wooded area the next morning but found no trace of Red, not even a footprint. It was as if he had tied a rope on a sky hook, hooked it to a cloud, climbed up the rope and pulled it up after him.

We made permanent camp to use as a headquarters for our daily hunting trips, before Pee Wee vanished. We were sitting by the fire talking. Pee Wee went into the tent as we heard the VOICE in the NIGHT saying, "You are next! You must die!" It was a high pitched, husky voice and sounded as if it came from a large, hollow tube. We couldn't tell whether it was male or female.

That was the last we saw of Pee Wee. He was a huge man, stood six feet four inches and weighed about three hundred pounds. Earlier that evening he had confessed to us that he had strangled a man because the man had objected to him dancing with his girl. He waited in an alley until the man was alone and Pee Wee was never caught for his dastardly act.

We wasted a whole morning looking for Pee Wee. I chuckled silently because I knew how useless the search was.

The next victim was Two Fingers. He told us that THE VOICE had a special meaning and was meant for him. He had



robbed an old lady's apartment and was caught by her.

He had grabbed the old lady for protection from the police and started down the fire escape. He had slipped on the running ladder at the bottom and his hand caught as he fell, causing the loss of his three fingers. He got away clean and was never apprehended.

I turned in early that night and was just getting comfortable in my sleeping bag when I heard Two Fingers moving outside my tent. Then suddenly everything was quiet. When I awakened the next morning there was no sign of Two Fingers. A cup, half filled with cold coffee, was on a log.

I didn't go looking for Two Fingers, I just sat down on the log beside the cold cup of coffee. I thought about breakfast, but didn't feel like putting out the effort to fix it. Then too I'd have to wash the tin plate and skillet and that was too much trouble. I just sat on the log and did a lot of thinking.

Of course Red, Pee Wee and Two Fingers were completely insane. Their consciences had simply got the better of them

I know, because I know whose voice it is and I know why.

The VOICE is old Forbes Dickerson. Old Forbes was a prospector up in Alaska. He didn't tell anyone, but he finally made a strike. I knew he would eventually, that's why I followed him around the hills for a year. He was panning nuggets from the swift streams by the dozens, when I murdered him. I didn't take any chances. I put six bullets in his head.

I sacked all the nuggets he had panned, worked a week myself, and took off.

I'm not the fool my three friends were. I know it's Forbes and I'm going to disappoint him. I have the same .45 automatic I used on him. He won't get me--I will! Hal Hal Here goes!

Tangaroa was the law on Pegoto Island. But Mike Quentin saw no reason to fear him. Why should a man fear a superstition that was nothing more than a

DEMON WIND!



WHEN MIKE QUENTIN FIRST CAUGHT SIGHT OF PEGOTO, THE ISLAND SEEMED TO STRETCH HAPPILY BENEATH THE BLUE SKY AND SMILE INTO THE FACE OF THE SUN. IT LOOKED LIKE PARADISE, ALL RIGHT, AND HE COULD UNDERSTAND WHY HIS SISTER HELEN WENT TO LIVE THERE WITH THAT DOCTOR HUSBAND OF HERS...

THERE WAS THE BUSINESS OF DISEMBARKING FROM THE SHIP AND TRANSFER TO A PRIMITIVE OUTRIGGER CANOE. WHEN THE SHORE DREW CLOSER, MIKE COULD MAKE OUT HELEN AND DOC MORRISON AMONG THE CROWD OF NATIVES...



YOU TWO LOOK IN THE PINK—I MEAN, IN THE DEEP TAN! THIS ROBINSON CRUSOE LIFE MUST AGREE WITH YOU—

LIKE THE PEOPLE OF PEGOTO, WE LEAD A SIMPLE EXISTENCE HERE.. AND WE LIKE IT! YOU MUST BE FAMISHED, MIKE. WE'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO CLEAN UP, AND THEN WE'LL HAVE DINNER... FAIR ENOUGH?



THE SOFT LANGUOR OF THE TROPICS MOVED LIKE A SOOTHING HAND THROUGH THE DIM LATTICED ROOM WHERE THEY DINED... THIS WAS A PLACE WHERE A MAN COULD RELAX... AND SAVOR THE BALMY NIGHT AIR WHICH BROUGHT A NATIVE CHANT ACROSS THE OPEN WINDOW... MIKE QUENTIN RELAXED!

YEP... I SOLD THE BOSS ON DOING A FEATURE STORY, HERE... AND VOILA! YOU HAVE A VISITING BROTHER-IN-LAW!

BUT, WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY FIND ON THIS ISLAND THAT WOULD MAKE NEWS?



AH! THE LOCAL DEMON, EH? GOOD! I'LL GIVE HIM A PLAY! SUPER-STITION STILL MANAGES TO SELL NEWSPAPERS... PERSONALLY, IT GIVES ME A LAUGH!

THESE THINGS ARE NOT FUNNY HERE IN MICRONESIA, MY BOY!



HEY, HELEN... THIS HUSBAND OF YOURS HAS GONE NATIVE! YOU LEFT THAT OUT OF YOUR LETTERS!

DON'T BE FLIPPANT, MIKE! HENRY IS ONLY TRYING TO TELL YOU TO BE TACTFUL IN DEALING WITH THE PEOPLE HERE... TO RESPECT THEIR BELIEFS!



I SAID FEATURE STORY. DOC... YOU KNOW... AN INTERESTING PIECE DONE FOR THE SUNDAY SUPPLEMENTS! "SOUTH SEA SUPERSTITIONS" "THE DEVIL-MEN OF BULA-BULA" STUFF OF THAT SORT...

I DARE SAY! WELL, TANGAROA WOULD BE YOUR BEST PROSPECT, I'D IMAGINE...



THESE PRIMITIVE ISLANDERS STILL LIVE AMONG THE ELEMENTAL FORCES WE CIVILIZED MEN HAVE LEFT BEHIND US... THE AITU... THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD STILL WATCH OVER THE PEOPLE OF PEGOTO... TANGAROA, THE PROTECTOR, IS VERY REAL... AND THERE ISN'T A MAN ON THIS ISLAND WHO DOESN'T FEAR HIM!



OKAY, I WON'T HORSE AROUND... BUT DON'T EXPECT ME TO SHAKE LIKE A LEAF WHENEVER SOMEONE MENTIONS THIS TANGAROA!

TANGAROA LIVE! TANGAROA, GREAT! HE WALK THE WIND AND BRING JUSTICE! TARA KNOW!

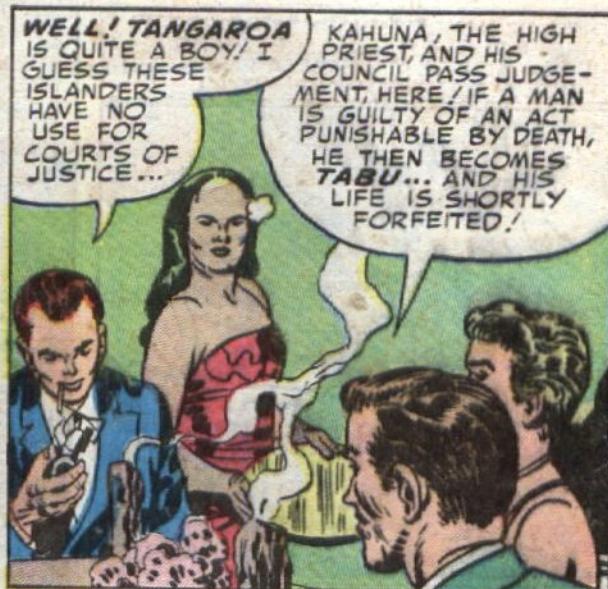


OH! OH! I'VE ALREADY MADE A BAD START WITH YOUR HOUSE-KEEPER... CONVEY MY APOLOGIES, DOC...

TARA SAW HER OWN HUSBAND MURDERED BY AN INTRUDER! THIS CRIME WAS LATER AVENGED BY TANGAROA...

WELL! TANGAROA IS QUITE A BOY! I GUESS THESE ISLANDERS HAVE NO USE FOR COURTS OF JUSTICE...

KAHUNA, THE HIGH PRIEST, AND HIS COUNCIL PASS JUDGEMENT, HERE! IF A MAN IS GUILTY OF AN ACT PUNISHABLE BY DEATH, HE THEN BECOMES TABU... AND HIS LIFE IS SHORTLY FORFEITED!



TAKEN BY TANGAROA, OF COURSE! NOW REALLY, DOC...

YOU MAY LAUGH IF YOU LIKE... BUT, I'VE SEEN IT HAPPEN! THE WIND CAME... AND, WHEN IT PASSED... THE CASE WAS CLOSED!

AS IT WAS IN THE CASE OF THIS FELLOW WHO MURDERED TARA'S HUSBAND, I SUPPOSE?

THE MAN WAS SWEPT INTO THE SEA... AND DROWNED... DESPITE THE FACT THAT HE WAS AN EXCELLENT SWIMMER!



ANY GOOD SWIMMER IS SUBJECT TO A CRAMP OR CAN SINK IN A ROUGH SEA... MIKE WANTED TO MENTION THAT, BUT DIDN'T! WHY GET ULCERS IN PARADISE, HE THOUGHT! THE ASSIGNMENT WAS LIKE A PAID VACATION... AND, HIS PURPOSE WAS TO ENJOY IT!

WELL, IT'S BEEN AN INTERESTING EVENING... I THINK I'LL TAKE A MOONLIGHT WALK AND THEN TURN IN...

GOOD NIGHT, MIKE...

THE NIGHTS WERE LOVELY ON PEGOTO! THE DAYS, A UNIVERSAL SPLASH OF BRIGHT, WARM COLOR! THE PEGOTANS, SMILING AND FRIENDLY, MADE MIKE ONE OF THEM!

HERE ARE THE WATERS OF THE BIG FISH! I SHALL KILL ONE... IN YOUR HONOR...

SO THAT'S WHY THEY CALL YOU SHARK! OKAY! GO AHEAD... BUT, DON'T GET ME IN THE ACT...



THE LAD NAMED "SHARK" PROVIDED DANGEROUS BUT EXCITING ENTERTAINMENT... WORTH AT LEAST A PARAGRAPH IN MIKE'S FORTHCOMING ARTICLE!



MY KNIFE BIT DEEP!
HE WILL DIE QUICKLY!
MUST COME UP, MY
FRIEND! HIS **BROTHERS**
WILL SOON SCENT THE
BLOOD AND SWARM
HERE IN DROVES!

LOOK... OUT THERE,
SHARK! SEE IT? A
GIANT WATERSPOUT!
I SUPPOSE YOU'D
SAY THAT WAS
TANGAROA ON
THE MARCH, EH?



A CHANCE MEETING OF THE SKY AND THE SEA... WITH THE MIGHT TO SMASH A LUCKLESS SHIP... BUT, IT IS **NOT** TANGAROA, FRIEND, MIKE... HE CAN SEE AND HEAR... AND ENFORCE HIS LAWS WHEN THEY ARE BROKEN...



MIKE WISELY SUPPRESSED AN AMUSED SMILE... THESE PEOPLE WERE LIKE IMAGINATIVE CHILDREN, PART OF A BACKWARD CULTURE THAT WOULDN'T GROW UP! WHEN SHARK TOOK HIM BACK TO THE ISLAND, MIKE FOUND OUT ABOUT HIS SISTER!

SHE'S BURNING WITH **FEVER**, TARA... WHERE'S DOC MORRISON?

CHIEF ON TOKU ISLAND MAKE SICK BY EVIL SPIRITS... DOCTOR MORRISON GO THERE!



WHEN DID HE LEAVE?
MAYBE, THERE'S STILL
A CHANCE OF CATCHING HIM!

TOO LATE! HE IS MANY HOURS AWAY! ONLY
KAHUNA CAN HELP HER NOW!



KAHUNA! YOU MEAN TO
PUT HELEN'S LIFE IN THE
HANDS OF A MUMBO-JUMBO
WITCH DOCTOR? NOT WHILE I'M HERE,
YOU WON'T!

MUST DO, OR
MISSY DIE.
KAHUNA KNOWS
THE SACRED
HEALING
CEREMONY...
HE CAN SAVE
MISSY!



THEY CAME THAT NIGHT... FOUR MEN WITH A FLOWER-DECDED LITTER FOR HELEN... AND SIX SPEARMEN WHO STARED AT MIKE WITHOUT SMILING... AS HELEN WAS TAKEN AWAY... FIRES FLARED IN THE HILLS AND, SOMEWHERE IN THE DARKNESS, A DRUM BEAT WITH THE SAD RHYTHM OF A FAILING HEART!

SHARK! YOU ARE MY FRIEND! DON'T LET THEM DO THIS!



MIKE WAITED UNTIL THEY WERE GONE! THEN, HE RANSACKED THE HOUSE FOR A GUN! HE FOUND NONE! NOT, THE KIND THAT SHOOTS BULLETS... BUT, THE ONE HE HAD, COULD BE JUST AS IMPRESSIVE TO THOSE WHO'D NEVER SEEN ONE...

I'LL SHOW THEM MAGIC! WHITE MAN'S MAGIC! IT'LL MAKE A SECOND-RATER OUT OF THAT KAHUNA!



DRINK OF THE LIFE THAT FLOWS IN THE EARTH... DRINK OF THE STRENGTH WHICH IS TANGAROA'S OWN... DRINK AND LIVE...



WE NOT HARM MISSY! OUR PEOPLE LOVE HER! KAHUNA CAN MAKE HER WELL! WE GO NOW! TRUST US! DO NOT FOLLOW. THE CEREMONY IS NOT FOR YOUR EYES!

YOU CRAZY, SUPERSTITIOUS SAVAGES! YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!



ON THE HIGHEST HILL OF PEGOTO, THINGS WERE GOING WELL! BEFORE A GREAT FIRE, THERE WAS CHANTING AND THE BREWING OF HERBS! HERBS CAREFULLY PICKED BY KAHUNA... HERBS FOR THE HEALING POTION... READY TO RESTORE LIFE TO THE LIPS OF THE DYING WOMAN!

IT IS TIME... LIFT HER HEAD, WHILE I CHANT THE SACRED WORDS!



AT THAT MOMENT, MIKE'S FLASH GUN WENT OFF! AND THE CHANT WAS DROWNED BY CRIES OF HORROR!



THE POTION HAD SPILLED! AND, THE WOMAN HAD DIED! TWO DAYS AFTER HER BURIAL, KAHUNA'S COUNCIL PASSED JUDGEMENT ON MIKE QUENTIN!

YOU NOT ONLY VIOLATED A SACRED CEREMONY, BUT CAUSED THE MISSY TO DIE... IT IS OUR WILL THAT YOU BE DECLARED "TABU"... AND AWAIT THE WRATH OF TANGAROA!



YOU SHOULD HAVE LEFT THINGS TO KAHUNA. MIKE, HIS METHODS ARE PRIMITIVE... BUT, I'VE SEEN THEM WORK! HE WAS HELEN'S ONLY CHANCE... AND YOU STUPIDLY RUINED IT!

DOC, YOU'RE BACK! LISTEN TO ME... I WANT TO TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED...



MIKE HAD TO SHIFT FOR HIMSELF AFTER THAT! TO THE PEGOTANS, HE DID NOT EXIST ANY MORE! HE WALKED AMONG THEM LIKE AN INVISIBLE MAN...



AND, I SAY "NUTS" TO THE LOT OF YOU! YOUR MUMBO-JUMBO KILLED MY SISTER! AND YOU'LL PAY FOR IT AS SOON AS I'M ABLE TO NOTIFY THE PROPER AUTHORITIES!



THE DOCTOR TURNED HIS BACK ON MIKE AS DID THE VILLAGERS! MIKE WAS "TABU"... ONE TO BE SHUNNED! AN OUTCAST WHOSE LIFE NOW BELONGED TO TANGAROA!

YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN THESE IGNORANT FOOLS, MORRISON! YOU DON'T FRIGHTEN ME WITH THIS "TABU" BUSINESS... DO YOU HEAR?



FINALLY, HE SOUGHT THE LONELY STRETCHES OF THE ISLAND... SCANNING THE HORIZON FOR THE SHIP THAT WOULD TAKE HIM AWAY FROM THAT ACCURSED PLACE...



ON THE NIGHT OF JULY 26, 1948, A GREAT WIND OF TERRIFYING PROPORTIONS SWEEPT OUT OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC CALM AND STRUCK THE ISLAND OF PEGOTO, CAUSING SURPRISINGLY SMALL DAMAGE! AN AMERICAN, MICHAEL QUENTIN, WHO IS STILL REPORTED MISSING... WAS THE ONLY CASUALTY!

END



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I have RUBBER & WORSESKIN!

NEW!

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- AUTHENTICALLY DRESSED IN COLOR
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